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Rural District of Aysgarth.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1956.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE  
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To the Chairman and Members of the Aysgarth Rural District Council.  
Mr. Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Mason and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1956.

The birth-rate (15.8 per 1000 population) was almost the same as that for England and Wales (15.6). The death-rate was still above the national figure (11.7) at 17.6.

The outstanding feature of infectious disease in the area, was an outbreak of acute meningitis of undetermined origin to which mention is made in this report.

Environmental hygiene continues to provide the major problems. The new water scheme for the upper dale made very little progress during the year and it will be at least 1959 before completion can be expected. Many of the villages have no adequate sewerage or sewage disposal facilities and these matters will demand attention once the water supply position has been improved.


Finally I should like to express my appreciation to the Members and Officials of the Council for their help and cooperation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.



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# SECTION A

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

### (a) General Statistics

Area (in acres)	81,032
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population Mid 1956)	3,410
Net decrease of Resident population (mid 1955 - mid 1956)	20
Population (1931 census)	4,257
Population (1951 census)	3,607
Number of inhabited houses (1951)	1,209
Number of inhabited houses (1956)	1,264
Rateable value of district (April 1957)	£ 22,356
Product of a penny rate	£ 94

### (b) Vital Statistics

	Males	Females	Total	Rates per 1000 home Population	
				Local	England & Wales
<b>1. BIRTHS</b>					
Live Births					
Legitimate	30	24	54	15.8	15.6
Illegitimate	1	0	1		
Still Births					
Legitimate	0	0	0	0*	23.0*
Illegitimate	0	0	0		
<b>2. DEATHS</b>					
All causes	36	24	60	17.6	11.7
Maternal causes	0	0	0	0*	0.56*
Enteritis & Diarhoea (under 2 years)	0	0	0	0	---
* Rates per 1000 total (live & still) births					
<b>3. INFANTILE DEATHS</b>					
All infants	1	0	1	18.2 (Rate per 1000 live births)	23.8
Legitimate Infants	1	0	1	18.5 (Rate per 1000 legitimate births)	-
Illegitimate Infants	0	0	0	0 (Rate per 1000 illegitimate births)	-
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	0	0	0	-
Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages)	0	0	0	0	-





CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis	1	0	1
Other Infectious and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant diseases	4	5	9
Cardio Vascular	19	13	32
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Other respiratory diseases	5	1	6
Digestive diseases	2	0	2
Congenital Malformations	1	0	1
Other diseases	3	3	6
Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0
Other Accidents	0	0	0
Suicide	0	0	0
	<u>36</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>60</u>
Total deaths (all causes)			

POPULATION TREND

	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Estimated mid-year population	3410	3430	3450	3474	3492	3534	3573	3614
Birth-rate	15.8	18.4	12.2	22.5	17.5	18.7	12.0	19.0
Death-rate	17.6	16.3	19.1	15.0	14.9	17.0	14.3	13.2

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which gives the Council power to remove to suitable premises, persons who are not able to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, adequate care and attention.





## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The details of staff are given at the beginning of the report.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply ambulance services from their station at Bainbridge.

#### HOSPITAL SERVICES

Local Hospital accommodation is provided in Northallerton by the Northallerton Hospital Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents receive both in-patient and out-patient treatment at Lancaster and Bradford hospitals.

#### NURSING IN THE HOMES

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Mid-wifery service is under the general direction of the County Council, with the day-to-day administration being dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee. Three district nurse/midwives operate in the area.

#### DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The equivalent of 0.09 whole time Domestic Help was employed in the District during the year and a total of 215 hours were worked. It is very difficult to recruit domestic helps in the area. The households assisted numbered 2.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

#### WATER SUPPLIES

The scheme to utilise the Fossdale springs to supply High Shaw, Simonstone, Hardraw, Sedbusk and Appersett and also to augment the Hawes Supply made very slow progress during the year. Whilst the scheme has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and by the County Council it is unlikely that the scheme will be in operation before 1959. I can only reiterate the remarks of my predecessor that the existing supplies in the upper dale constitute a grave danger to public health. I should add that the Aysgarth Rural District Council are anxious to bring in this new scheme to provide a safe supply of water with the minimum of delay.

Details about the supply position during the year are to be found in the Public Health Inspector's Section.



## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No new schemes have been started in the year under review. A start was made on the reconstruction of the sewage works at Carperby where the spending of a relatively small amount of money should make the works serviceable for a considerable period. It is intended to alter the sedimentation tanks to get better settlement, convert two fill and draw tanks into percolating filters, with rotary distributors fed through a dosing tank and to convert the remaining fill and draw tank into a storm water tank.

The Hawes and Gayle Sewerage System has been extended to serve the West End of Gayle and six houses have been connected to the new sewer.

The villages of Askrigg, Burterset, West Burton and Thoraby are in need of a proper system of sewers and sewage disposal works.

## SECTION D

### HOUSING

Details regarding housing are to be found in the Public Health Inspector's Section.

## SECTION E

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation on the 1st January. Inspection of food premises continued during the year and as a result, certain improvements in the standard of food hygiene were brought into operation.

Details of this work and of meat inspection are to be found in the Public Health Inspector's Section.



SECTION II

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious diseased notified

	Males	Females	Total
Whooping cough	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Tuberculosis	1	2	3
Acute Poliomyelitis (non paralytic)	1	1	2

ACUTE MENINGITIS OF UNDETERMINED ORIGIN

During the year there was an epidemic of this disease in the Aysgarth Rural District. The first two cases occurred during April and these were diagnosed in hospital as non-paralytic poliomyelitis, a condition very closely resembling this acute meningitis. The epidemic reached its peak during May and June and finally died out in July. Approximately 100 cases were traced but this probably does not include the very mild forms of the disease which occurred. Some six persons were transferred to hospital but so far as is known, no complications or sequelae were reported. The disease was characterised by pyrexia, headache, neckstiffness and in some cases vomiting and a rash resembling rubella. The attack rate in affected families was high and a large proportion of those affected were children and young adults. There was no evidence to indicate how the disease was transmitted other than by case to case spread.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following figures indicate the immunisation rate of the child population in the district.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Immunised</u>
0 - 4 yrs	50 %
5 - 14 yrs	92 %

These figures relate to the part of the North Riding administered by the Wensleydale Local Health Sub-Committee. The immunisation rate for the Aysgarth Rural District is considerably higher than the above figures indicate.







### Small-pox Vaccination

57% of the children born during the year were notified as having been vaccinated against small-pox (53% in 1955). Whilst the figure for 1956 is below that for the previous year, it is still well above the average for the Country at the present time.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination

During the early part of 1956, parents of children born between 1947 and 1954 inclusive were invited to register their children for vaccination against poliomyelitis. In the Aysgarth Rural District, 295 children were registered out of an estimated total of 460 who were eligible. This represents a 65% acceptance rate which is extremely high - the figure for the country as a whole was about 30%. A total of 33 children received a full course of vaccination during the year. This small number was due to the limited amount of vaccine available.

### TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 - 14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15 - 24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 - 34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 - 44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 - 54	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 - 64	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 - +	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0



PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A total of 975 inspections, in addition to visits made to food premises and slaughter houses were carried out during the year and an analysis is given below.

	Inspections	Informal Notices	Complied with	Statutory Notices	Complied with
Council Works	418	-	-	-	-
Housing	144	4	4	7	7
Public Health Acts	356	6	6	1	1
Rodent Control	57	-	-	-	-

WATER SUPPLIES

(Rainfall as Measured at Hawes)

Month	Amount		Month	Amount	
	1955	1956		1955	1956
JAN.	4.12	4.31	JULY	1.20	4.60
FEB.	2.54	0.86	AUG.	0.57	9.10
MAR.	1.60	2.60	SEPT.	2.58	4.02
APR.	1.57	1.74	OCT.	3.50	3.98
MAY	5.23	2.49	NOV.	3.55	1.84
JUNE	3.18	3.17	DEC.	9.14	8.23
			TOTAL	38.78	46.94

The above table shows the rainfall for 1956 as compared with 1955. It will be observed that there were no prolonged dry periods and in consequence no shortage of water was experienced.

Sunshine Recorder

At the request of the Meteorological Office, a sunshine recorder, on loan from them, has been installed on the pump house roof at Hawes sewage works. The sunshine readings are taken at the same time as the amount of rainfall is read and takes little extra time.

The readings for the four months following the setting up of the recorder are as follows viz :-

Sunshine Recorded at Hawes

September	75.3	hours
October	116.5	"
November	46.3	"
December	14.5	"



# Bacteriological Examination of Water:

26 Samples were taken during the year as follows :-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Hawes	1	6
Hardraw	1	1
Carperby	1	1
Newbiggin & Thoraby	1	3
Addlebrough Regional Supply	1	2
Appersett	1	1
Askrigg	1	2
West Burton	1	3
Simonstone	1	1
Woodhall	1	2
Private Supplies	2	-

It will be seen from the above table that out of 26 samples of water submitted for bacteriological examination, only 4 came within the Ministry's standard for a satisfactory water, that is to say, they had less than three coliform organisms with no faecal coli. This picture is somewhat worse than previous years and may to some extent be due to the fact that we had rather more rainfall. All the supplies produce bad samples from time to time and until they are chlorinated we cannot expect different results.

## Chemical Examination of Water

4 samples of water were submitted for chemical examination to the Public Analyst and he reported that they were all satisfactory.

Table showing population supplied from Public Water Mains

Parish	Houses	Population
Abbotside High	52	141
Abbotside Low	52	62
Askrigg	126	340
Aysgarth	67	180
Bainbridge	131	354
Bishopdale	-	-
Burton-cum-Walden	98	264
Carperby-cum-Thoresby	58	157
Hawes	375	1,012
Newbiggin	21	57
Thoraby	46	124
Thornton Rust	32	85

Total number of houses in Area .. .. .	.. ..	1,264
Total number of houses supplied from Public Mains .. ..	.. ..	1,029
Percentage of houses supplied from Public Mains . ..	.. ..	81.4%





MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat Inspection

It is estimated that 60% of the meat consumed in the Rural District is slaughtered in private slaughter houses, four in number, sited in Hawes, Gayle, Aysgarth and Askrigg.

The butchers have continued to observe their obligation to notify slaughter and I have endeavoured to make inspections as soon as possible after notification and I believe that they have seldom been inconvenienced by not being able to remove meat from the slaughter house as soon as they would have liked, because it had not been inspected.

The total number of animals inspected was 361 for which purpose it was necessary to make 184 visits to the slaughter houses.

The siting, construction and facilities of the slaughter houses leaves something to be desired, but the state of cleanliness and conduct of them has, in the main part, been satisfactory.

Unfit meat is disposed of by burial on the Councils' refuse tips. Whilst this method of disposal is in many respects unsatisfactory, an alternative is difficult to find. Knackermen will only collect whole carcasses as the distances are too great, and the Council cannot, for reasons of cost, maintain a collection and incineration service.

The following table gives details of the number of animals killed and the carcasses and organs found unfit.

	Bull- ocks X	Heif- ers	Total Y cattle (exclud- ing Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	66	55	121	9	Nil	77	154
Number inspected	66	55	121	9	Nil	77	154
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CISTICERCI</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	5	6	11	-	-	-	-
Percentage	7.57%	10.91%	9.1%	-	-	-	-
Total Percentage	7.57	10.91	9.1	-	-	-	-
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Percentage	-	1.82%	.826%	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	2	4	6	1	-	-	4
Percentage	3.03%	7.28%	4.956%	11.1%	-	-	2.6%
Total Percentage	3.03%	9.1%	5.782%	11.1%	-	-	2.6%



Other Foods

A total weight of other foods, including tinned foods, amounting to 30 lbs. 6 ozs. was inspected and found to be unfit.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

There are 73 premises in the district which come within the scope of the Food Hygiene Regulations, they are as follows :-

Cafés	6
Public Houses	18
Confectioners	5
Grocers	22
Butchers	8
School Canteens	7
Fish and Chip Shops	1
Fishmongers	2
Cheese Factory	1
Hotels	3

There are seven vehicles in the district which are used to retail food for immediate consumption. These vehicles have been provided with washing facilities, including provision for the storage of hot water. It is to be hoped that these facilities will be maintained and used as there was some opposition to their provision.

45 inspections of food premises were made during the year, 13 informal notices were served requiring structural alterations to make premises comply with the regulations.

SEWERAGE

Table Showing number of houses connected to Public Sewers

Parish	No. of Houses	Population Served
Abbotside High	51	141
Abbotside Low	-	-
Askrigg	106	277
Aysgarth	44	149
Bainbridge	95	262
Bishopdale	-	-
Burton-cum-Walden	-	-
Carperby-cum-Thoresby	58	160
Hawes	355	976
Newbiggin & Thoraby	-	-
Thornton Rust	-	-
	719	1965
With a total population of approximately 3,410 the percentage for which sewerage is provided is 57.6%		





## HOUSING

### The Housing Rent & Repairs Act 1954, Section 1 (Housing Proposals)

The following action was taken during the year to implement the Councils' Housing Proposals made under the above act in 1955.

#### Part 2 (Orders already made)

The seven houses and the other buildings comprised in the Newkin Clearance Area, Hawes, were demolished and the redevelopment of the area started.

#### Part 3 (Action in the first five years)

The Council undertook to deal with 41 unfit houses in the first five years, 26 of these were in groups of two or more and 15 were single houses likely to be dealt with as individual unfit houses.

#### Clearance Areas

The Council considered an area in the Holme, Hawes, and decided not to proceed with the making of a Clearance Order.

A small area in Aysgarth, comprising two houses and two other buildings was represented to the Council as an area which should be declared as a Clearance Area. The Council deferred the making of an Order in response to a plea made on behalf of two people living in the area who did not wish to be disturbed.

An area comprising three houses in Gayle is being dealt with informally. One of the houses has been made fit by the owner-occupier, and the owner of the remaining two houses, the tenants of which were re-housed by the Council, has closed the houses and intends to convert them into one house. Plans have been approved to this end.

#### Individual Unfit Houses

Two houses have been closed by informal arrangement with the owners who have indicated their intention to make the houses fit before they are occupied or sold.

Two houses have been converted into garages as they were unfit and could not, by reason of their relation to other buildings, be made fit.

Five unfit houses have been made fit by the owners with the assistance of Improvement Grants. In three cases the maximum grant of £ 400 was paid, one received a grant of £ 358 and the other £ 135. The cost of making the houses fit varied from the highest, which was £ 1,824 to the lowest which was £ 270.

One house has been partly demolished by the owner without any action on the part of the Council.

#### Housing Acts, 1949 to 1954, Improvement Grants

The Council agreed to make nine grants during the year, the total amount being £ 2,678. The grants were based on 50% of the approved cost of the improvements in all cases. One of the grants was in respect of the conversion of a large house into two.





## New Council Houses

By the middle of the year, the last nine houses at the Little Ings Estate were completed and occupied. At the end of the year the Council had no current housing contracts for the first time in ten years.

## Housing Survey

The following table gives the numbers of houses surveyed in the course of the Rural Housing Survey and their Classification. During the year, the Office Records of the Survey were examined in detail and a Housing Register has been compiled showing the classification of each house and giving details of the amenities. It was found that some of the houses previously inspected would have to be reinspected for various reasons - some were no longer used as houses and some had been inspected twice by different Inspectors and counted twice. The result is that the total figure of houses surveyed now appears to be less than it was at the beginning of the year.

Houses surveyed were classified as follows :-

Total number of houses	.. .. .	1,264
Total number of houses surveyed	. . . . .	1,102
Class 1. Satisfactory in all respects	.. .. .	196
Class 2. Minor defects "	" " " " " "	353
Class 3. Repairs or structural alterations ,	.. .. .	438
Class 4. Suitable for improvement work under the Housing Act 1949 .	.. .. .	177
Class 5. Unfit for habitation ..	.. .. .	115

## Overcrowding

(a)	Total number of houses overcrowded at the beginning of the year	..	..	1
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	..	..	1
(c)	Number of new cases of overcrowding	..	..	nil
(d)	Number of cases relieved	..	..	-
(e)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	..	..	-

HOUSING AND HOME FOUNDINGS  
Houses built by Private Enterprise

The table below gives details of houses under construction and those completed since 1945 in the various parishes.

Parish	Completed	Under Construction
Hawes	2	—
Askrigg	4	1
Thornton East	1	—
Aysgarth	3	—
New Abbotside	1	1
TOTAL	11	2



HOUSES BUILT BY AYSGARTH R.D.C.

Parish	To 31/12/55	Completed by 31/12/56	Under Construction
Hawes	35	9	-
Bainbridge	8	-	-
Askrigg	4	-	-
Carperby	6	-	-
Aysgarth	4	-	-
West Burton	2	-	-
TOTAL	59	9	-

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, BUILDING BYELAWS

33 plans were considered during the year. Details are shown in the table.

	New Build- ings	Alter- ations to dwell- ings	Garage & Sheds	Cow- sheds & Dairies	Other Build- ings	Con- ver- sion into Houses	Total
Hawes	-	10	5	-	1	1	17
Bainbridge	-	2	2	-	2	-	6
Askrigg	3	-	1	-	-	-	4
Carperby	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Aysgarth	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Thornton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rust	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Thoralby	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
High Abbotside	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
West Burton	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	3	16	9	-	4	1	33

RODENT CONTROL

57 visits were made to Council and other properties.

The Council's sewers were baited and poisoned twice during the year. The sewage works and refuse disposal tips were dealt with when infestations occurred. More householders are taking advantage of the fact that free poison bait is available for treating infestations in domestic premises, 105 lbs of prepared poison bait (using warfarin) was given out without charge.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937

	Powered	Non-Powered	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are enforced by District Council	-	1	1	1	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 applied	26	-	26	12	-	-







